

MAR 08 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND THE GOVERNOR TO COLLABORATE WITH THE LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE EXPEDITED BURIALS FOR VETERANS, DECEASED ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES, AND THEIR SPOUSES AT VETERANS CEMETERIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, this body recognizes that in Native Hawaiian
2 culture, the proper burial of a deceased Native Hawaiian is an
3 important sacred practice, rite, and right; and

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5 WHEREAS, this body respects the rights of Native Hawaiians
6 to be buried in a timely manner or with respect to the wishes of
7 the decedent and families; and

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9 WHEREAS, this body recognizes and supports the Association
10 of Hawaiian Civic Clubs' position that all United States
11 veterans and their spouses have earned the privilege to be
12 buried in a veterans' cemetery and all decedents deserve the
13 highest standards for burials, as is a long-standing tradition
14 and practice of Native Hawaiian culture; and

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16 WHEREAS, the family of a member of the Association of
17 Hawaiian Civic Clubs recently experienced difficulty in securing
18 a speedy burial for a deceased loved one at the Hawai'i State
19 Veterans Cemetery in Kane'ohe, O'ahu; and

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21 WHEREAS, Mrs. Viola Lewis, a spouse of a predeceased United
22 States veteran buried at the Hawai'i State Veterans Cemetery,
23 passed away on February 19, 2018, but could not be buried for
24 more than five weeks due to administrative delays at the
25 cemetery; and

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27 WHEREAS, appropriate legislation and sufficient funding are
28 needed to expedite burials at all veterans cemeteries throughout
29 Hawai'i; now, therefore,

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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
32 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that Hawai'i's





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1 congressional delegation and the Governor are urged to
2 collaborate with this body to ensure expedited burials for
3 veterans, deceased active duty members of the United States
4 Armed Forces, and their spouses at veterans cemeteries in
5 Hawai'i; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is also urged to
8 direct the Hawai'i Office of Veterans' Services to implement all
9 measures practicable and necessary to expedite burials at all
10 veterans cemeteries throughout Hawai'i; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawai'i's
14 Congressional Delegation; Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Under
15 Secretary for Memorial Affairs; Governor; Director of the Office
16 of Veterans' Services; Chair of the Board of Trustees, Office of
17 Hawaiian Affairs; and Mayors of the City and County of Honolulu
18 and Counties of Maui, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i.
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OFFERED BY: _____



Clara E. P. P.

